

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 281000Z JUN 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6393
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1341

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, IZ, YS, YE
SUBJ: IRAQI REACTION TO EVENTS IN YEMEN

1. IRAQI REGIME HAS REACTED WITH CAUTIOUS CONCERN TO ASSASSINATION OF YEMINI PRESIDENT AL-GHASHMI AND TO EXECUTION OF PDRY PRESIDENT ALI. PROMPTLY FOLLOWING DEATH OF AL-GHASHMI, IRAQ DISPATCHED DELEGATION HEADED BY AGRICULTURE MINISTER TO ATTEND FUNERAL IN SANA. IRAQI OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO DEMONSTRATED THEIR SYMPATHY BY VISITS TO YEMINI EMBASSY IN BAGHDAD AND DECLARATION OF THREE-DAY MOURNING PERIOD.

2. OVERTHROW OF SALIM RUBAY'I ALI AND HIS SUBSEQUENT EXECUTION PROMPTED MORE AMBIGUOUS RESPONSE. IRAQI OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN CAREFUL TO AVOID BEING DRAWN INTO ANY DISCUSSION OF EVENTS IN THE PDRY, BUT MOST IRAQI NEWSPAPERS HAVE CARRIED SYMPATHETIC BIOGRAPHY OF THE LATE PRESIDENT ALONG WITH NEWS ACCOUNTS FROM ADEN WHICH SIMPLY QUOTE SOURCES THERE WITHOUT COMMENT. BAATH PARTY NEWSPAPER
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AL-THAWRA CARRIED PICTURE OF ALI ON FRONT PAGE ENCLOSED IN BLACK BORDER. GLARING EXCEPTION AMONG MEDIA WAS COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY WHICH CARRIED FRONT PAGE BANNER READING "THE PEOPLE OF DEMOCRATIC YEMEN FOIL AN ATTEMPTED COUP D'ETAT."

3. COMMENT: IRAQ HAS MADE INVESTMENTS IN BOTH YEMENS IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. RELATIONS WITH ADEN REGIME HAVE RECENTLY

BEEN STRAINED BY DIFFERING APPROACHES TO CONFLICT IN HORN
OF AFRICA, AND POLICY WHICH NEW PDRY GOVERNMENT PURSUES TOWARD
ERTREA, WILL BE A KEY FACTOR IN STRUCTURING BAGHDAD'S ATTITUDE TOWARD

RELATIONS WITH ADEN. OF EVEN GREATER IMPORTANCE, IN WAKE OF LEFTIST
AFGHANI COUP AND SERIOUS STRAINS BETWEEN IRAQI BAATH AND LOCAL
COMMUNISTS, IS IRAQI CONCERN THAT INSTABILITY IN SOUTHERN ARABIA
MIGHT CARRY LONG-TERM THREAT TO ARAB NATIONALIST REVIVES BY POLARIZING

AREA BETWEEN CONSERVATIVES AND LEFTISTS. WHILE IT IS PREMATURE
TO SPECULATE THAT OVERTHROW OF SALIM RUBAY'I ALI MIGHT
INCLUDE IRAQ TOWARD MODERATE ARAB CAMP, IT HAS CERTAINLY CONTRIBUTED
TO UNEASE WHICH BAGHDAD HAS BEEN FEELING ABOUT GENERAL TRENDS IN THE
AREA.
PECK

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